Export oriented industrial units

†885. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of business carried out by export-oriented industrial units out of the total import-export trade of the country, during the last two years;

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange earned by the said units during the same period; and

(c) whether it is a fact that being export-oriented units, these units are also getting various economic concessions and if so, the total amount of concession given to them in the said years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Total foreign exchange earned by the Export Oriented (EOUs) during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 were to the extent of about US $ 8300 Million and US $ 8500 Million (provisional) respectively. The share of EOUs in the total exports of the country was about 9.94% and 8.28% during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir. Units under export oriented scheme are given a package of incentives/financial concessions which include duty free import/procurement of capital goods, raw materials, consumables; deemed export benefits; income tax exempton; re-imbursement of Central Sales Tax (CST), etc. These benefits can't be quantified in financial terms.

Fall in prices of spices

886. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been a fall in the prices of spices;

(b) if so, the details of the prices of spices during the last three years, year-wise and produce-wise;

(c) whether Government have since ascertained the reasons for the continuous fall in the prices of spices;

(d) whether Government would take steps to procure the produces with a minimum support price; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The average prices of a few spices viz. ginger, turmeric, cumin seed and celery seed have come down during 2006-07 (April-June) as compared to 2005-06. The average All India auction price of cardamom for 2005-06 crop season (August-June) has also come down. The prices of black pepper, cardamom (large), chilli, coriander seed, fennel seed, fenugreek, garlic, clove, nutmeg, mace and cinnamon have gone up in 2006-07.

(b) Statement showing average prices of major spices from 2003-04 to 2005-06 is given below:—

(Price: Rs/Kg)

Months	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Pepper	74.11	69.08	66.44
Cardamom (Small)	361.03	298.23	215.55
Cardamom (Large)	137.68	110.65	107.84
Chilli	39.14	28.71	24.57
Ginger	68.56	130.36	99.40
Turmeric	48.22	52.78	49.45
Coriander	27.88	19.04	20.72
Cumin	66.30	68.31	64.47
Celery	26.69	28.12	30.61
Fennel Seed	50.02	45.76	57.58
Fenugreek	17.19	15.67	16.72
Garlic	16.83	19.80	18.23
Clove	211.84	249.03	233.04
Nutmeg	171.84	187.79	179.55
Mace	322.40	373.35	354.97
Cinnamon	54.99	50.48	48.74

(c) Yes Sir. The major reason for the fall in the price of spices in the domestic maket is the drying up of export market especially in the case of black pepper. The increase in production and low unit cost of production in the competing countries like Vietnam and Guatemala in respect of pepper

and cardamom respectively have helped them to push their produce in the International Market making if difficult for the Indian spices to compete. Price of ginger ruled at higher level during the year 2004-05 but the prices started falling from the last week of 30.12.2005.

(d) Government has no programme at present to procure spices with minimum support prices.

(e) Does not arise.

Trained infiltrators being sent by Pakistan

†887. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is sending trained infiltrators in the hills of Poonch;

(b) the number of attempts made by infiltrators at Poonch border through LOC during last two months;

(c) whether Government have held any talks with Government of Pakistan in this regard; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether, according to the Defence Experts, situation in Poonch is taking a turn similar to the Kargil war; and

(e) if so, whether Government are prepared to handle emergent circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) to (e) Infiltration attempts from across the Line of Control and other borders continue and are being effectively neutralized in Jammu and Kashmir. Infiltration attempts have been successfully intercepted in the Poonch Sector in May and June, 2006. There were two attempts in May and none in June, 2006.

Government has, in its interaction with Pakistan at all levels, continuously stressed the fact that Pakistan needs to take effective action to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism on a permanent basis. Government has made it clear to Pakistan that the premise on which the present dialogue process is based is the commitment of January 6, 2004 by Pakistan not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.